

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

November 7, 2002

Contacts:

Donald Lyford
Project Manager
(603) 271-2165
Bill Boynton
Public Information Office
(603) 271-6495

HINSDALE, NH-BRATTLEBORO, VT INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS
PLANNED REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 119 BRIDGES OVER CONNECTICUT RIVER

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces informational sessions will be held November 18 in Hinsdale, NH and November 19 in Brattleboro, VT regarding the planned deck rehabilitation on the NH/VT Route 119 bridges over the Connecticut River.

The project involves a complete replacement of the existing pavement surface on both bridges with pre-cast concrete panels. It's anticipated the bridges will have to be closed entirely to traffic, including pedestrians, for a period of three weekends to allow the work to be completed. Work is currently anticipated to begin in late April or early May of 2003.

Closing the bridges from late Friday evenings until early Monday mornings for three weekends will allow a third of each bridge deck to be rehabilitated each weekend. A temporary connection between the existing pavement and the new pre-cast concrete would be installed on Mondays to allow traffic to use the bridges during weekdays.

The existing pavement surface on the bridges requires nearly weekly patching of both the pavement and the corrugated steel panels beneath the pavement. Because it will be several more years before a new bridge is in place, it's necessary to rehabilitate the deteriorated decks. Rehabilitating the decks will also reduce the future work that would be required to keep the bridges open for pedestrian/bicycle use once a new bridge is in place.

The NHDOT presentation to discuss the current concept and obtain input will take place at the Hinsdale, NH Selectmen's meeting on Monday, November 18, 2002 at the Hinsdale Town Hall on Main Street at 6:30 pm. The same presentation to the Brattleboro Selectmen's meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 19, 2002 in the Select board Meeting Room at the Municipal Center, 230 Main Street in Brattleboro, VT, at 6:15 pm.